



'Dagger' moving to Graf Town hall meeting at Conn Club Monday

Story and photo by
Mark Heeter

U.S. Army Europe officials have directed the relocation of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, known as the Dagger Brigade, from Schweinfurt to Grafenwoehr, beginning in early 2008, according to a USAREUR news release today.

"The move will begin this month in order to take advantage of the normal personnel assignment cycle," following the brigade's recent deployment, according to the release.

Meanwhile, the 15th Engineer Battalion and its three companies, originally scheduled

to be created in Grafenwoehr, will be established in Schweinfurt during the current fiscal year.

"Following the Dagger Brigade's recent deployment, the USAREUR commanding general, Gen. David McKiernan directed an analysis of relocating the brigade to Grafenwoehr. Upon review, he decided to move the brigade so that those soldiers would have immediate access to the largest and best training facilities in Europe," according to the release.

"Support for the Global War on Terror is our number one priority and I believe that relocating the 2/1 ID takes advantage of the absolute best brigade combat team facilities

we have anywhere in Europe for this unit to reset, train and prepare for future missions. This is the right thing to do," McKiernan stated in the release.

Col. J.B. Burton, Dagger Brigade commander, announced to his Soldiers and families yesterday the units that are scheduled to execute the first of two planned phases.

The brigade headquarters; 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment; 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment; the brigade's separate companies; and select service-and-support elements from the 299th Forward Support Battalion are expected to be in

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Col. J.B. Burton answers reporters questions at a press conference at Dagger Brigade Headquarters on Conn Barracks yesterday.

Task Force Guardian cases colors

Story and photo by Mark Heeter

Task Force Guardian (TFG), which

spent nearly two years in its supporting role as the Dagger Brigade Combat Team's rear detachment, cased its colors in a ceremony at the Finney Recreation Center Monday.

Col. J.B. Burton, Dagger brigade commander, presided over the ceremony, during which Lt. Col. Robert Whittle and 1st Sgt. David Morgan, TFG commander and sergeant major, respectively, retired the unit colors.

"From its very inception, this was not going to be your father's rear detachment," Burton said in his remarks.

"These Soldiers were hand picked by their

company and battalion commanders," Burton said, looking out over the formation gathered for the last time, behind their Delta company guidons. "They have performed magnificently." Prior to the ceremony, Burton awarded Meritorious Service Medals to Whittle and Morgan for their service. He also inducted Whittle into the Order of St. Maurice and presented both Soldiers mounted V42 combat knives, drawing an analogy between the unit and the knife – not flashy but designed for a specific purpose.

"We can all be exceptionally proud of all they have done and all they represent," Burton said, counting off the list of TFG's accomplishments.

Before turning over the podium to Whittle, Burton declared that, in his 24

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Lt. Col. Robert Whittle and 1st Sgt. David Morgan case the Task Force Guardian colors Monday.



News Briefs

Salsa dancing

Learn some moves and shake it up on the dance floor! Schweinfurt Army Community Service (ACS) is offering salsa dancing lessons as part of a "Couples can do it" success series. Class will be held at the Abrams Entertainment Center in Schweinfurt on Wednesday from 6 – 8 p.m. For more information, call 354-6933 or 09721-96-6933.

B.O.S.S. events

Join Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers (B.O.S.S.) for activities this winter. Tonight, come to the Conn Auto Skills Center at 6 p.m. to learn skills for shop safety. Jan. 17, go to Kessler Bowling Alley for a free evening of bowling starting at 8 p.m. and even learn how to drill a customized ball. For more information, call 354-6270 or 0170-725-6464.

Sign ups now open

Child and Youth Services will host the next Super Saturday Respite Care in Schweinfurt Feb. 9 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. It is open to children six weeks old to fifth grade. Children must be registered with CYS and reservations must be made. Call 354-6517 or 09721-96-6517.

Leighton lunch bunch

Enjoy a budget and family-oriented lunch on the economy. Join Leighton Army Community Service (ACS) for the January lunch bunch. Meet at ACS, bldg 14 on Wednesday at 11 a.m. and car pool to a local restaurant. For more information, call 350-7103 or 0931-889-7103.

CYS care reminder

As a reminder to any potential childcare or youth activities patrons, registration and enrollment is a prerequisite. Child and Youth Services, in order to provide top-quality care, must maintain accurate records of a child's allergies, vaccinations and general health assessment for the well-being of all children in care.

Registration is not only a requirement for regularly scheduled care but also for using care during special events and meetings. The registration process is quick and expedient and, there is no fee for basic CYS registration.

Birth n' Babies classes

Learn about pregnancy, childbirth and newborn care by attending Birth n' Babies classes offered at Ledward Army Community Service tomorrow (Birth n' Babies I) and Monday (Birth n' Babies II) from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call 354-6933 or 09721-96-6933.

Temporary move

The Customs Customer Service Office will be temporarily relocated to Bldg. 289 on Ledward Barracks. Due to the move, the office will be closed Jan. 17 and 18.

Smooth move seminar

Leaving the community? Army Community Service (ACS) wants to help "smooth" your transition. Attend a seminar at Ledward ACS on Tuesday from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. to get tips on packing, shipping, moving with pets and more. For additional information, call 354-6933 or 09721-96-6933.

Town hall meeting set

Come to the Schweinfurt town hall meeting Monday at 2 p.m. in the Ledward Theater to hear USAG Grafenwoehr commander's welcome. He will also inform the community of services available for incoming Soldiers and families.

SCSC Luncheon

The Schweinfurt Community Spouses' Club invites the community to a talent show luncheon at Brauhaus am Markt in Schweinfurt at 11:30 a.m. on Jan. 23. Come share your talent and enjoy lunch with friends. The cost of lunch is 10 euro. RSVP deadline is Tuesday. For more details or to RSVP, contact scscrsvp@gmail.com

Schweinfurt Dispatch



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The Schweinfurt Dispatch weekly newsletter is an unofficial publication of the U.S. Army Garrison Schweinfurt, IMCOM-Europe and the U.S. Army authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1.

The newsletter is published and distributed weekly in an electronic format. The newsletter can be viewed on the U.S. Army Schweinfurt website at <http://www.schweinfurt.army.mil>.

This newsletter is a command information product that places emphasis on events and activities occurring throughout the Schweinfurt and Lower Franconia areas.

Information and photos included in this

newsletter are acquired from sources that highlight events, programs and activities in Schweinfurt and Lower Franconia.

Dates, times, locations, and the events themselves might change or be cancelled without prior notice.

To be added to the Schweinfurt Dispatch distribution list, please email: mail.sft.pao@eur.army.mil.

This address can also be used to submit community slides or information on upcoming events, or you can reach the USAG Schweinfurt public affairs office by calling 354-1600/6381 or (09721) 961600/966381.



- 18 JAN --Curious George and story time, Ledward Shoppette, 12:30 - 1 p.m. Photos 11 a.m. to noon.
--Sign ups begin for CYS Parents Night Out for Jan. 25 from 6:30-11 p.m. Call 354-6517.
- 18-21 JAN --Outdoor Recreation ski and snowboard trip to Salzburgerland, Austria. Call 353-8080.
- 19 JAN --Curious George and story time, Ledward Shoppette, 12:30 - 1 p.m. Photos 11 a.m. to noon.
--B.O.S.S. paintball, Conn paintball field, 2-4 p.m. Call 354-6270 or 0170-725-6464.
- 21 JAN --Curious George and story time, Ledward Shoppette, 12:30 - 1 p.m.
- 22 JAN --Free advanced Microsoft Word class, Finney Gym, 8 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. Call 354-6933.
--“Don’t sweat the deployment stuff (adults)” class, Ledward Yellow Ribbon Room, 6-8 p.m.
- 23 JAN --Dagger Memorial Dedication, Dagger Rose Garden, Conn Barracks, beginning at 10:30 a.m.
--Schweinfurt Community Spouses’ Club luncheon at 11:30 a.m., details at scscrsvp@gmail.com
--German Language class begins at Ledward ACS, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Call 354-6933.
--Free advanced Microsoft Excel class, Finney Gym, 8 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. Call 354-6933.
- 24 JAN --B.O.S.S. brake repair class, Conn Auto Skills Center, 6-9 p.m. Call 354-6270 or 0170-725-6464.
--Free Microsoft Power Point class, Finney Gym, 8 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. Call 354-6933.
--ACS “Lunch Bunch”, Hornpfad restaurant on Johann-Sebastian-Bach Str. 2, meet at Ledward ACS bldg. 242 to carpool at 11 a.m. Call 354-6933.
--“Don’t sweat the deployment stuff (kids)” class, Ledward Yellow Ribbon Room, 5-7 p.m.
- 25 JAN --MWR Winter Fest, Finney Fitness Center, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
--CYS Parents Night Out, care for kids 6 weeks to 5th grade, Leighton Barracks, 6:30-11 p.m.
--Daddy Basic Training class at Ledward ACS 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Call 354-6933.
--Free Microsoft Access class, Finney Gym, 8 a.m. to 12:50 p.m. Call 354-6933.
- 25-27 JAN --Fishing license course, Conn Outdoor Recreation. Call 353-8080.
- 28-31 JAN --AFTB Level II classes, Schweinfurt Education Center, 8:45 a.m.-2 p.m. Call 354-6933.
- 27 JAN --Musical “Fame” performed in English, Schweinfurt City Theater, 7:30 p.m. Call 09721-51475 or 09721-510 for tickets.
- 30 JAN --B.O.S.S. create your own stein, Ledward Arts and Crafts Studio, 6-9 p.m. Call 354-6270.
--ACS “Couples can do it” salsa dancing, Abrams Club, 6 to 8 p.m. Call 354-6933.
- 31 JAN --Sign up for The Big Read at Ledward and Leighton libraries. Call for info. 354-1740.
- 3 FEB --B.O.S.S. superbowl party at Finney Sports & Leisure Center. Time TBA. Call 354-8476.
- 6 FEB --B.O.S.S. welding instruction, Conn Auto Skills Center, 6-9 p.m. Call 354-6270.
- 9 FEB --Super Saturday Respite Care from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Call 354-6517 to sign up.
- 15 FEB --Sign ups begin for CYS Parents Night Out for Feb. 22 from 6:30-11 p.m. Call 354-6517.
- 15-18 FEB --Outdoor Recreation ski and snowboard trip to Dolomites, Italy. To sign up call 353-8080.
- 19-21 FEB --Army Family Team Building (AFTB) Instructor Training, 8:30 a.m. to noon, Ledward YRR.

Community 6 week outlook calendar



Deadline for college scholarship coming up

By *Caroline Williams*

FORT LEE, Va. - Are you digging under the sofa cushions for misplaced change and rolling coins from your money jar to help pay for college tuition? Given the soaring costs of higher education, you certainly aren't alone. Perhaps a \$1,500 scholarship could help?

Applications for the 2008 Scholarships for Military Children Program must be turned in to a commissary by close of business Feb. 20. They are available in commissaries worldwide or online through a link at <http://www.commissaries.com> and directly at <http://www.militaryscholar.org> where they can be filled out on the computer and printed or printed and filled out by hand. At least one scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location with qualified applicants.

The scholarship program kicked off in 2001 and, according to agency officials, has awarded more than \$5.5 million dollars in scholarships to 3,532 of the best and brightest children of military families.

Retired Marine Lt. Col. Fred Thomas's son Mark earned a scholarship in 2001. He said he's still paying for his son's undergraduate tuition, but every scholarship helps. "[This scholarship] was one more piece that allowed my son to attend a top university and excel by not having to work his way through," Thomas explained. Mark posted a 3.96 grade point average upon graduating from the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Ind., with a Bachelor of Arts in theology, music and philosophy. He is presently a Senator Jacob K. Javits Fellow at Boston College,

Mass., working on a doctorate of philosophy in religion.

The scholarship program is open to unmarried children under the age of 21 (23 if enrolled in school) of active-duty, Reserve, Guard and retired military personnel. Eligibility will be determined using the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System database. Applicants should ensure that they, as well as their sponsor, are currently enrolled in the DEERS database and that they have a current ID card. All applicants must be U.S. citizens.

The applicant must be planning to attend, or already attending, an accredited college or university full-time in the fall term of 2008.

Students at community or junior colleges must be enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program.

"Applications must be in the store by close of business Feb. 20," said Edna Hoogewind, DeCA's scholarship program liaison, "either by hand or mail."

If you are not hand-delivering your application, Hoogewind recommends using a delivery method that supplies a return receipt. From April 15 through July 1, applicants can go online and verify receipt of their application in the "Verification of Receipt" section.

Hoogewind also advises students to check all their materials carefully for simple things, like making sure the application is signed or that they are using the 2008 application, not one from previous years.

Everything applicants need to know about the program can be found in the Frequently Asked Questions section of the military scholar Web page.



Welcome home to you, too

A crew guides a container toward the last leg of its journey out of Iraq at the Conn Barracks rail head Monday. Dozens of containers of equipment and supplies, as well as some vehicles, returned to Schweinfurt following the 2nd Brigade Combat Team's recently completed deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom. (Photo by Mark Heeter)





Speak German with courage

Attend free Schweinfurt ACS language class

Story and photo by *Miranda McLean*

Sprechen Sie Deutsch? If you didn't understand the question or the answer is no, Army Community Service (ACS) has a class for you! Both Schweinfurt and Wuerzburg ACS are offering beginners German classes continually this spring.

Schweinfurt ACS is offering a 12-session course beginning on Jan. 23. Monika Goodman, instructor for the class said that students can expect to learn more than just the basics. Much of the class material goes beyond the book and has been developed by Goodman herself.

"I listen around to where the problems are with Americans (such as), 'Can I pay with Visa?,' 'What is an ATM called in German?' I use a book but at least 50 percent (of the material) is not the book but things I've developed: grammar, practice, and stories," Goodman said.

Wuerzburg ACS is offering a 5-week course that began on January 7. The next course in Wuerzburg is scheduled to begin on March 31. Anna Engel, teacher of

the Wuerzburg class, said that the focus is on conversational German.

"We want (the students) to go out and communicate – to have a little fun and a little German experience," Engel said.

Both Engel and Goodman suggest that these classes are beneficial to everyone.

Nancy Todd, a student at the Wuerzburg class shared a number of reasons she's taking the class, "To help with acclimation, to be able to interact more with local nationals and on the economy, to make my experience (in Germany) more pleasurable, to raise my comfort level."

"The most important thing is that they get the courage to speak," Engel said. No matter what the reasons are for choosing to



Cpl. Tina Sallis and Staff Sgt. Terri Dickerson practice some of their new German vocabulary at the Wuerzburg ACS German class.

attend, the end result is this shared goal. Schweinfurt classes will meet at the Yellow Ribbon Room on Ledward Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. beginning Jan. 23. Wuerzburg classes meet at Leighton ACS Monday and Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

MOVING

Grafenwoehr by mid-summer.

The remainder of the brigade will relocate to Grafenwoehr as space becomes available over the next two years, according to the release.

"We have begun a very hard look at the requirements at the far end of this movement, to ensure that the capacity is available to base Soldiers and families associated with this move," Burton said during a press conference in his headquarters yesterday, noting that the unit has not yet completed the formal and final analysis, down to the individual and family, of who will move and when.

"We're pretty comfortable

with this initial move. But I'll tell you, there's a lot of hard work and a lot of hard analysis yet to be done so we can attend to every Soldier and family on an individual basis," Burton said.

The plan calls for evaluating personnel moves, directing some Soldiers, when possible, inbound from the United States straight to Grafenwoehr, all the while treating all the Soldiers and families with dignity and respect, Burton said.

"We want to make sure that we are not disenfranchising anyone unnecessarily," he said.

While looking ahead to the Dagger Brigade's future home, Burton noted the importance that Schweinfurt and its training

facilities have played in the unit's history.

"I think Schweinfurt is a tremendous community. It has provided this brigade outstanding support. The citizens of Schweinfurt, the local training facilities, have been outstanding in preparing this brigade combat team for its missions extremely successfully," he said.

"I have tremendous confidence in what Schweinfurt delivers to the United States military," adding that the local training area is "absolutely perfectly suited for a combat engineer battalion," such as the one headed for Schweinfurt.

The garrison staffs at both ends of the transition are

already working to fully support McKiernan's directive.

"We will do everything we can to make the transition as transparent as possible for the Soldiers and families of the Dagger Brigade," said Lt. Col. Anthony Haager, USAG Schweinfurt commander.

Soldiers should stay in touch with their chains of command for details about a scheduled trip to visit facilities in Grafenwoehr Saturday, Burton said.

Additionally, the USAG Grafenwoehr commander, Col. Brian Boyle, will bring members of his staff to hold a town hall meeting for Dagger Brigade Soldiers and families in the Conn Community Club Monday at 3 p.m.



Eligible retirees urged to get vaccines

Europe Regional Medical Command press release

HEIDELBERG, Germany – Zostavax, the vaccine designed to prevent shingles for persons age 60 and older is available at Army health clinics, and health officials urge eligible retirees to get the vaccine as soon as possible.

Following a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendation on Oct. 19, 2007, military health officials decided to make the vaccine available to Tricare beneficiaries. The vaccine is free of charge when given in a military health clinic to authorized beneficiaries and civilians authorized space available care.



Shingles is a painful viral disease that affects more than one million Americans every year. More than half of those cases happen in people age 60 or older. The CDC recommends a single dose of shingles vaccine for everyone age 60 and older.

“Shingles comes from a dormant virus living in our bodies. It has become more common as our children are no longer getting the chickenpox. When we reach our sixties and older, the immune system does not remember our past infection, and our bodies become more susceptible to this often painful and debilitating disease. The good news is that the disease is a short-term illness, but prevention through vaccination is the key,” said Dr. Sarah Niles, Chief Preventive Medicine USAMEDDAC Bavaria.

In a shingles prevention study done by the Veterans Administration Cooperative Trial, run by Dr. Michael Oxman out

of the University of California, San Diego, Zostavax was more than 50 percent effective in reducing the incidence of shingles and more than 60 percent effective in reducing some of its associated symptoms. Even in people who suffer from the disease, most of those who were vaccinated experienced less pain.

Shingles is caused by the varicella-zoster virus, the same virus that causes chickenpox in children. It remains in the body for decades, sleeping in nerve cells along the spinal column. A shingles rash usually appears on one side of the face or body and lasts between two to four weeks. It is painful and can be accompanied by fever, chills, and upset stomach.

The medical community is also encouraging adults age 65 and older to get the pneumonia vaccine. They stress these facts:

- ❑ Pneumococcal disease can kill. It is the sixth leading cause of death in the U.S. (40,000 deaths annually).
- ❑ It can be a miserable and expensive illness. There are 100,000 – 130,000 hospitalizations annually in the U.S. It can affect lungs, blood, and brain. It usually causes fever, cough, and shortness of breath.
- ❑ Pneumococcal disease can affect people of all ages, but adults ages 65 and over are at higher risk for complications from both the flu and pneumococcal disease. The shot can help protect from serious infection in your lungs, blood and brain.
- ❑ Getting the shot at age 65 or older should provide protection for a lifetime. It can be administered at any time of the year. The shot is safe and most people have no side effects. For maximum safety, medical officials also encourage beneficiaries to take the flu vaccine annually.

GUARDIAN

years of service, “one of the best decisions I have ever made was posting Bob” to lead Guardian.

Whittle recognized his Soldiers for all their contributions since the Dagger brigade began preparations for the deployment it completed in December.

“These Soldiers volunteered as coaches and scouting leaders,” he said, also recognizing the family readiness groups and other support sources that came from throughout the brigade.

Whittle also thanked Morgan.

“It is my hope that someday you will be my sergeant major again,” he said.

He finished by addressing the Soldiers and the crowd gathered in the fitness center. “It has been an honor to serve and to serve with each and every one of you,” Whittle said, before he and Morgan cased the colors and ordered them retired.

DPW NEWS



The DPW is in the process of replacing bus stops throughout the garrison and the first was installed recently at the Central Processing Center, Bldg 40, Conn Barracks.

In the next few weeks the bus stops at both the Commissary and Lee Street, in Askren Manor will be replaced and a new stop will be installed in the PX parking lot on Ledward Barracks across from the commons, Bldg 224 to replace the one behind the shoppette, Bldg 225.

The program will continue throughout the summer with the replacement of the bus stops on Conn Barracks. (photo by Kimberly Gearhart)